

**CUTHAM RISE, CUTHAM LANE
BAGENDON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR: SO 0180 0642

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**June 2006
Report No. 494**



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Author

Date

Approved

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SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on 7th June 2006, on land at Cutham Rise, Cutham Lane, Bagendon, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 0180 0641). The project was commissioned by Graham Barker-Dench of D2B Designs on behalf of the owners of Cutham Rise.

Planning permission to erect two new extensions to the rear and east side of Cutham Rise has been applied for. A programme of archaeological works was required by Cotswold District Council in advance of this development. A single 5m x 1.5m trench was excavated to the south of Cutham Rise, within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Perrotts Brook Dykes (SAM 428).

No evidence relating to the Iron Age or Romano-British settlement was identified during evaluation.

The archaeological evaluation revealed, despite modern disturbance, intact subsoils which would offer the potential for undisturbed archaeological remains. However, no archaeological finds or features were identified during the course of the project.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Modern

The period from *circa* 1900 to the present day.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case clay limestone brash.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum is used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *circa* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on 7th June 2006, on land at Cutham Rise, Cutham Lane, Bagendon, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 0180 0641), see Figure 1. The project was commissioned by Graham Barker-Dench of D2B Designs on behalf of the owners of Cutham Rise.
- 1.2 Planning permission to erect two new extensions to the rear and east side of Cutham Rise has been applied for (Ref. CT 5053/C). A programme of archaeological works was required by Cotswold District Council in advance of this development, in accordance with the principals of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and Policy 30 of the Cotswold District Local Plan. Part of the application area falls within the Scheduled Area of Monument 428 Perrotts Brook Dykes. A Class 7 Consent (HSD9/2/7815) was issued in advance of the archaeological works.
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2006), based upon a Specification supplied by Gloucestershire County Council. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001). The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development originally consisted of two extensions to Cutham Rise, comprising a single storey extension to the rear and a two-storey extension on the eastern side. The western, single storey extension is to replace an existing extension by re-using the existing foundations. As a result, there will be no significant disturbance at ground level, which will prevent archaeological investigation in that area. The proposed two-storey extension is to replace and expand upon an existing extension; this area also partially falls within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. See Figures 2 and 3.
- 2.2 The site lies in an area of known archaeological potential and partly falls within the Scheduled Area of Monument (SAM) 428 Perrotts Brook Dykes. This SAM is one of a number of Scheduled features in the area that form part of an Iron Age and Romano-British 'oppidum' settlement. This has been identified previously as the possible site of the Dubonnic Capital, and perhaps identifiable with Ptolomy's Corinion. There have been five excavations in the area, and aerial photographic interpretation of features has also been carried out. The known settlement comprises two areas of excavated settlement features, nine dykes, several ditches, a moated enclosure and a number of burials. There has also been 1st century industrial waste found, along with a Roman road. It is therefore clear that the scheduled areas do not form the only areas of known and substantial archaeological resource, and in the case of

Scheduled Area of Monument 428 Perrotts Brook Dykes, reflect the limits of the upstanding earthwork.

- 2.3 The Scheduled Area of Monument 428 Perrotts Brook Dykes comprises a substantial bank and ditch feature and partly includes the easternmost part of the existing house. As a result a large part of the side extension will fall within the Scheduled Area, although the rear extension does not affect it. The monument appears to have been previously disturbed in the immediate area of the house and slighted to allow access from Cutham Lane. The extension will not, therefore, affect any visible or upstanding remains. It is probable, however, that part of the monument survives as below-ground deposits and that these may be affected by the proposals. As the scheduled area follows the known extent of the upstanding earthwork, however, it is possible that presently unidentified associated structures may lie outside the SAM. The monument is visible on a number of aerial photographs and on historic Ordnance Survey mapping, although it is not defined on the 1792 Map of Bagendon or the 1838 tithe map. Historic mapping indicates that the fields have changed very little since the late 18th century, although the plot boundary around Cultham Rise and Withy Close are of 20th century origin.
- 2.4 The Sites and Monuments Record lists numerous finds and features within the immediate vicinity; these include ditches (SMR 4793), enclosures (SMR 4788), a coin (SMR 21484), intercutting pits (SMR 9441) and an area of Roman road (SMR 9779) to the west of the monument with outlying dykes (SMR 4131 & 4143) and probable 'Celtic' field systems (SMR 4134) to the east.
- 2.5 The study area therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods. This in no way prejudiced the evaluation works against the recovery of finds or features relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) To establish the presence or absence of features/deposits of Romano-British date and to define and identify any other archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

- ii) To attempt to characterise the nature of the Romano-British activity previously recorded in the area through its archaeological sequence and by recovering as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
- iii) Where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological specification required the excavation of two trenches measuring 5m x 1.5m, one in each of the proposed extensions. In the event, only one trench, Trench 2, was excavated. Following consultation with Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council, it was agreed not to excavate Trench 1 due to a change in the development proposal by which the western extension was to be built upon the foundations of the existing extension. As a result, the ground in this area will not be disturbed. Trench 2 fell within the Scheduled Area and was therefore inspected by English Heritage. Final trench locations are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever were encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a 'mini-digger' fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter cleaning and excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI, the Brief supplied by Gloucestershire County Council, the Scheduled Monument Consent and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 **Trench 1.** Not Excavated.
- 5.2 **Trench 2** (5m by 1.5m) was east-west aligned, and was excavated onto natural deposits which comprised yellow brown clay with limestone brash. The natural was encountered at an average depth of 0.59m (140.93m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural substrate was overlain by subsoil (103), a mid grey brown firm, friable silt clay with frequent small sub-angular fragments limestone, up to 0.26m thick. Subsoil (103) was overlain by topsoil (102), a dark brown friable, humic silt clay with a few small to medium sub-angular limestone fragments, 0.26m thick at the east end and 0.13m thick at the west end. Topsoil layer (102) was overlain by modern turf layer (101), 0.10m thick.
- 5.3 No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench, although three modern pipe trenches were present, cut from beneath turf layer (101).

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No evidence relating to the Iron Age or Romano-British settlement was identified during the course of the evaluation.
- 6.2 The works revealed intact subsoils, with some modern disturbance from services, which indicates that the potential exists for undisturbed archaeological remains in the general area. However, no archaeological finds or features were identified during the course of the project.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

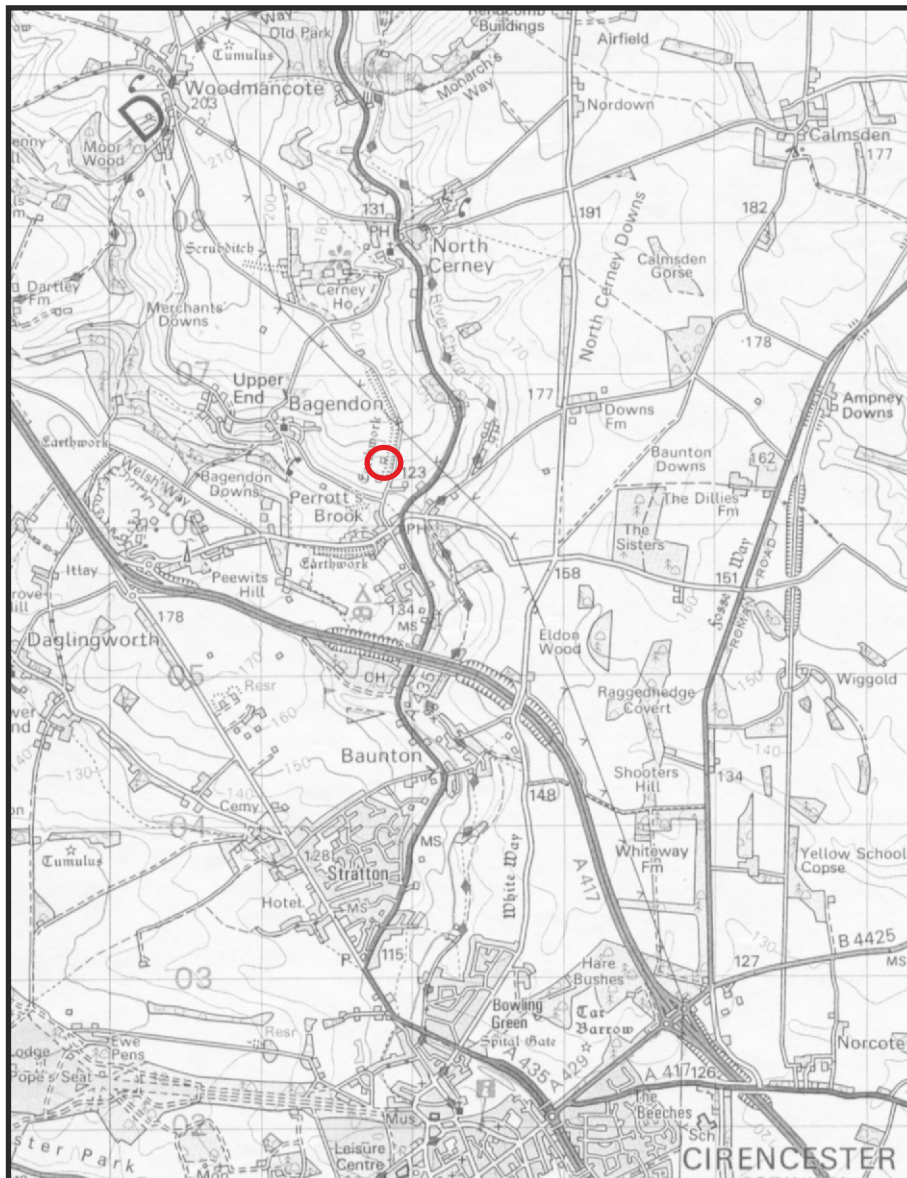
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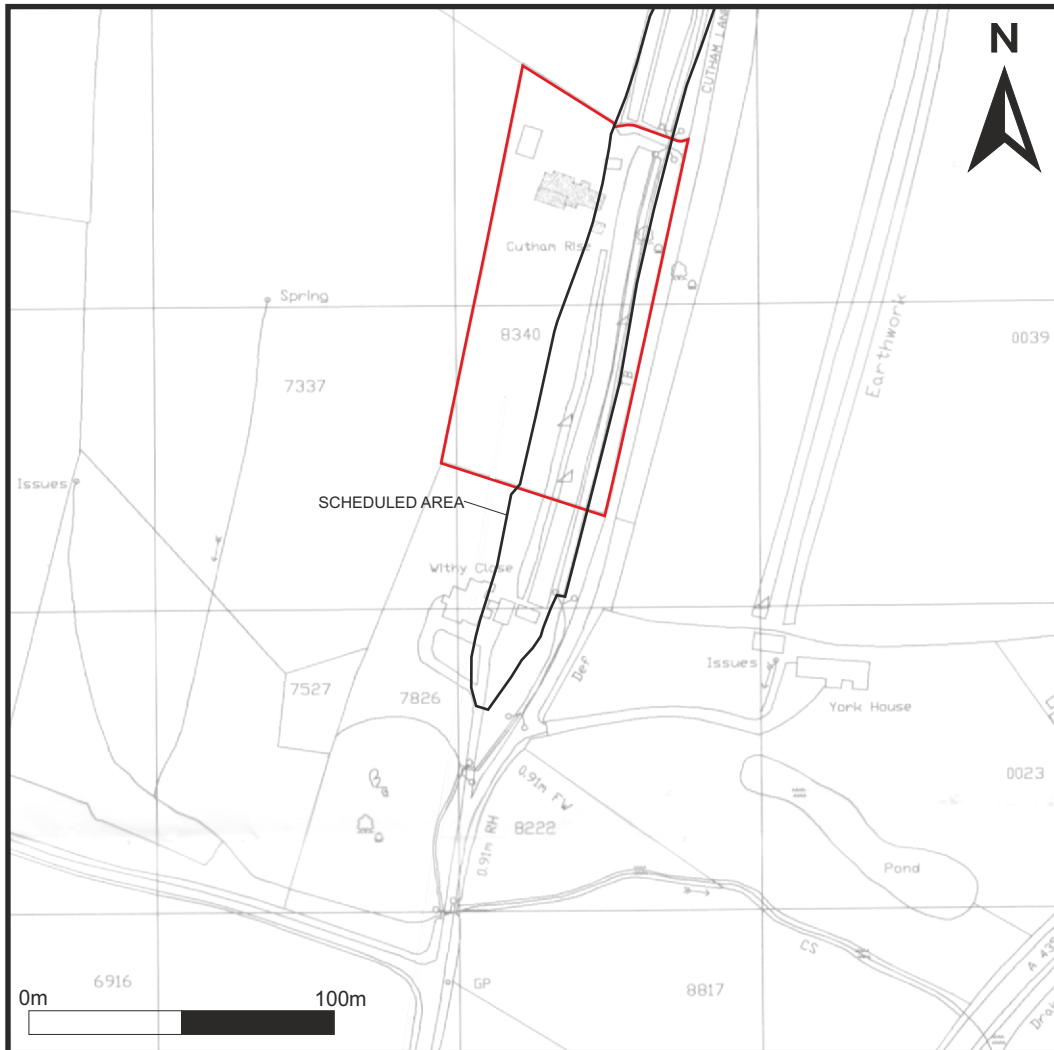
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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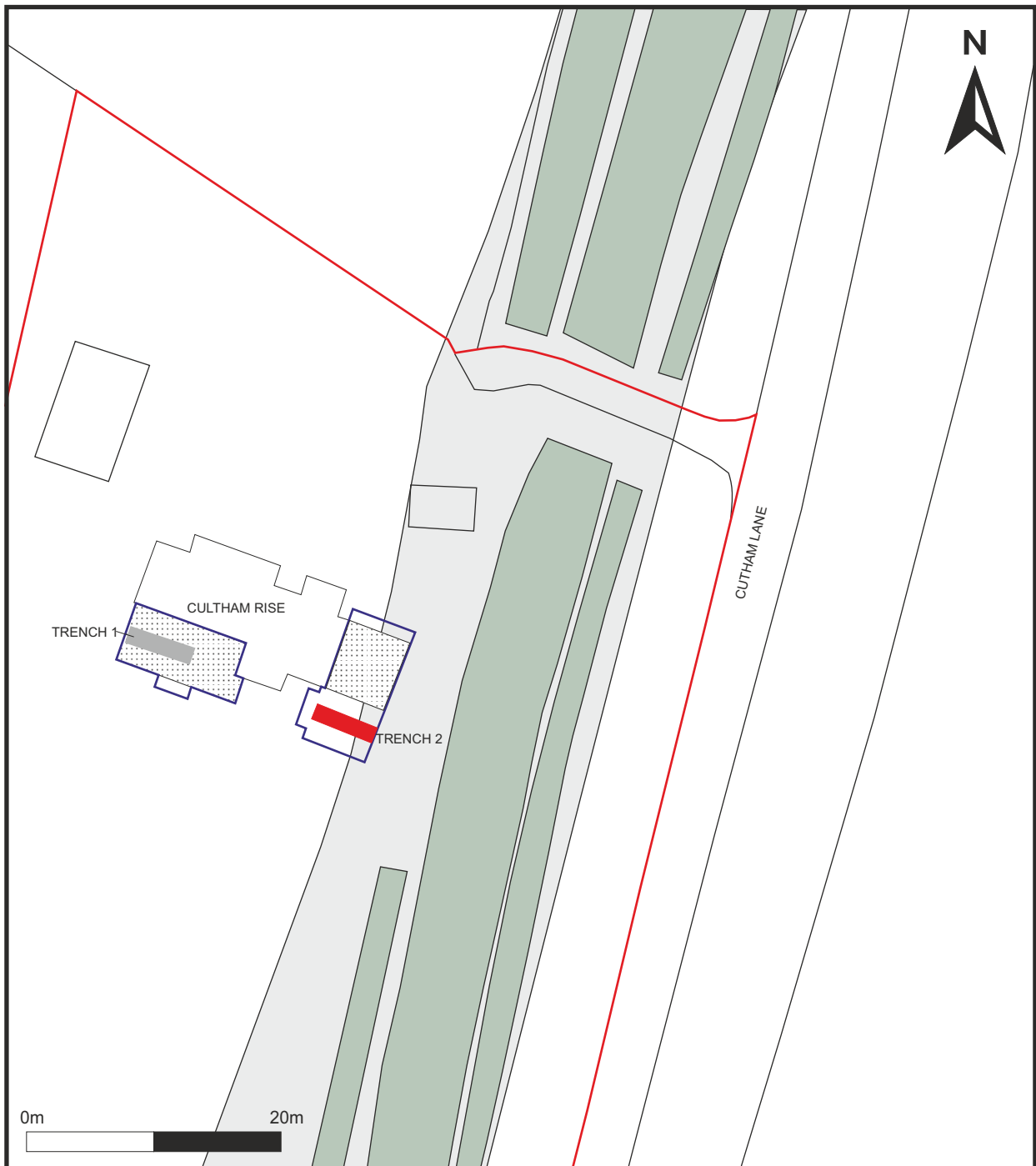
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FIGURE 1: Site Location



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FIGURE 2: Study Area Location









KEY	
	TRENCH LOCATION
	EXISTING EXTENSION
	PROPOSED EXTENSIONS
	EARTHWORKS
	SCHEDULED AREA
	SITE EXTENT

FIGURE 3: Trench Locations